

DATE: 11/03/2008  
TIME: 9:39 P.M.  
ACTIVITY: Rod Blagojevich home line incoming call.  
SESSION: 163

SPEAKERS:

BLAGOJEVICH: Rod Blagojevich  
P. BLAGOJEVICH: Patti Blagojevich  
GREENLEE: Robert Greenlee

\* \* \* \*

1 BLAGOJEVICH Hey.  
2 GREENLEE Hey. So, ...  
3 (PAUSE)  
4 BLAGOJEVICH You there?  
5 GREENLEE Yeah I'm here. I'm reading the article  
6 entitled "Give It Up, Governor".  
7 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.  
8 GREENLEE The editorial.  
9 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.  
10 GREENLEE I would tell you when I did the search  
11 when they endorsed Madigan, for the  
12 House.  
13 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.  
14 GREENLEE Said, you know Michael Madigan opposes  
15 everything the governor does. Then they  
16 write the sentence: "Now is the time to  
17 form, an impeach-, ah, House committee  
18 to study impeachment of the governor,"  
19 which is a totally gratuitous thing to  
20 say.  
21 BLAGOJEVICH The Tribune said that?  
22 GREENLEE Yeah.  
23 (PAUSE)

1 GREENLEE But in the actual editorial,...

2 BLAGOJEVICH And when was this endorsement of  
3 Madigan, how long ago?

4 GREENLEE That was, um, a couple weeks ago, the  
5 24th or so.

6 BLAGOJEVICH So they're sayin' I should be impeached?

7 GREENLEE They're saying you should form the  
8 committee.

9 BLAGOJEVICH Mm-hmm.

10 GREENLEE And in this healthcare article...

11 BLAGOJEVICH Mm-hmm.

12 GREENLEE ...they don't say that.

13 BLAGOJEVICH Mm-hmm.

14 (PAUSE)

15 GREENLEE Said, they tried an end run around, he  
16 tried an end run twice, rejected by the  
17 governor's gambit. Next he tried an end  
18 run around Epstein. Wednesday, Epstein  
19 re-, rejected it point blank and said  
20 the ruling doesn't apply, it's time to  
21 get on complying.

22 BLAGOJEVICH How did we end run Epstein?

23 GREENLEE By, you know, doing a motion for stay.

24 BLAGOJEVICH How's that end running? That's just  
25 goin' to court.

26 GREENLEE I don't know. That's, that's why, look  
27 that's where they say "Give it up, you  
28 were reckless and wrong from the  
29 beginning, you have little to no chance  
30 of prevailing in court", um,...

31 (PAUSE)

1 (Television audible in background)

2 GREENLEE ...and it doesn't, it doesn't say  
3 anything else. That's the...

4 (PAUSE)

5 GREENLEE But it has nothin' on impeachment.

6 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah, but that editorial does, on  
7 endorsement of Madigan. (Sighs).

8 (PAUSE)

9 BLAGOJEVICH How 'bout Nadler's on a tape, Jerry  
10 Nadler, explaining to these Jewish women  
11 in Boca Raton about Reverend Wright's  
12 church and why Obama stayed there for 20  
13 years. And then Ra-, Nadler sayin' well  
14 8,000 people in his district, you know,  
15 he, he lacked the political courage, he  
16 couldn't leave.

17 (PAUSE).

18 GREENLEE I think that's crazy.

19 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah. So the Tribune endorsed  
20 Madigan...

21 GREENLEE How ugly to say that.

22 BLAGOJEVICH (speaking to wife)... couple weeks ago  
23 and then in the extra, editorial  
24 endorsement they say as opposed to  
25 everything I tried to do, now it's time  
26 for Madigan to convene a committee of  
27 impeachment. Tribune, two weeks ago,  
28 when they endorsed Madigan.

29 P. BLAGOJEVICH Huh, you know what, I would just, who  
30 are you talking to?

31 BLAGOJEVICH Greenlee.

32 P. BLAGOJEVICH Tell him to hold up that fucking Cubs  
33 shit. Fuck them. Fuck them. Why  
34 should you do anything for those

1                               assholes? Sam Zell. What kind of  
2                               bullshit is that?

3       BLAGOJEVICH               What do you think of that, ah, Greenlee?

4       GREENLEE                Look, if there, there's a part of it  
5                               that really, that you know I feel, I  
6                               agree with, you know. I mean now Zell  
7                               will tell you he doesn't do anything  
8                               that, ah, you know he doesn't do  
9                               anything with the editorial over there,  
10                              he's just a business guy. But I would  
11                              tell him look, if you wanna get your  
12                              Cubs thing done, get rid of this  
13                              Tribune, you know.

14       BLAGOJEVICH            Yeah.

15       GREENLEE               I mean they're not sayin' that they  
16                               think they should impeach. They  
17                               previously editorialized that they  
18                               should not impeach.

19                               (PAUSE).

20       BLAGOJEVICH            Well, another consideration when I come  
21                               to that Senate seat. Don't you think  
22                               Patti? I'm gonna spend all year dealin'  
23                               with the Tribune advocating that they  
24                               have a committee on, to look into  
25                               impeaching me. Right Greenlee?

26       GREENLEE               Mm-hmm. I think it's a risk, yeah.

27                               (PAUSE)

28       BLAGOJEVICH            So Nadler, Jerry Nadler they've got him  
29                               on tape sayin' that, ah, telling these  
30                               wo-, women in Florida, Patti.

31       P. BLAGOJEVICH         What?

32       GREENLEE               I mean here's the, if you wanna get a  
33                               sense for how just completely out to  
34                               lunch the Tribune is, on David Miller  
35                               they put in a parens here, "He's also  
36                               the only dentist in the legislature.  
37                               Can he extract a governor", question

1 mark.

2 BLAGOJEVICH Can he what?

3 GREENLEE Extract a governor, question mark.

4 BLAGOJEVICH Extract, what does that mean?

5 GREENLEE You know like extracting a tooth.

6 BLAGOJEVICH Oh, he's a dentist. Can he extract a  
7 governor? It's in their ed-, in their  
8 endorsement of him you mean?

9 GREENLEE Yeah.

10 BLAGOJEVICH Tell Patti this, hang on.

11 (PAUSE)

12 P. BLAGOJEVICH Hello.

13 GREENLEE Hey.

14 P. BLAGOJEVICH Hey.

15 GREENLEE So David Miller, who's a dentist, in his  
16 endorsement by the Trib, they say, you  
17 know in a, they say he's a quality  
18 legislator, well versed in education,  
19 health care, and human service issues,  
20 parens, he's also the only dentist in  
21 the legislature, period. Can he extract  
22 a governor, question mark, end paren.

23 P. BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

24 GREENLEE This is (sighs)...

25 P. BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

26 GREENLEE These are awful.

27 P. BLAGOJEVICH I know. Yeah. Screw them and their  
28 Cubs. You know.

29 GREENLEE Hey look, you know...

1 P. BLAGOJEVICH Wh-, what are we settin', settin' up  
2 (UI).

3 GREENLEE ...I don't mind helping Zell, but Zell  
4 should just get rid of these guys. They  
5 should just sell the fucking paper to  
6 somebody.

7 P. BLAGOJEVICH Or just fire 'em. He owns the paper. I  
8 mean what would, ah, William, William  
9 Randolph Hearst do? Say, oh, I can't  
10 interfere with my editorial board.

11 GREENLEE Yeah.

12 P. BLAGOJEVICH They're hurtin' my business. I mean if  
13 his papers were hurting his business,  
14 he'd, you know, do somethin' about the  
15 editorial board.

16 GREENLEE Yeah, well that, I mean they've lost all  
17 impartiality.

18 P. BLAGOJEVICH Yeah.

19 GREENLEE It's awful.

20 P. BLAGOJEVICH Okay, here.

21 GREENLEE Absolutely awful.

22 (PAUSE)

23 BLAGOJEVICH (To wife, it's Nadler, listen). Look,  
24 put together all the stuff they say  
25 along those lines. Let's have Harris or  
26 somebody go to, you know Crane Kenney,  
27 say someone's got to go to, and that  
28 Nils. And you go to Zell and say, you  
29 know we got some decisions to make now.

30 (PAUSE)

31 BLAGOJEVICH And I don't know, ah, you know, with the  
32 Tribune driving this stuff and Madigan  
33 tryin' to screw me it's gonna make it  
34 hard for me to govern if I gotta deal  
35 with this.

1 GREENLEE Mm-hmm.

2 BLAGOJEVICH You know you guys have to make a  
3 decision. I mean let's, let's think  
4 about that.

5 (PAUSE).

6 GREENLEE Yeah you gotta...

7 BLAGOJEVICH I mean, how do you...

8 GREENLEE ...be careful on how you do that, but  
9 yeah.

10 (PAUSE)

11 BLAGOJEVICH You know someone should say get rid of  
12 those people. You know we wanna help  
13 you on this, but I mean we, we may not  
14 be around. I mean this, this, if this  
15 is the dynamic, fuck, he'll just become  
16 a senator. Fuckin' let Pat Quinn get  
17 you this Wrigley deal.

18 (PAUSE)

19 BLAGOJEVICH What do you think?

20 GREENLEE Yeah, look, I, you know, this, I gotta  
21 tell you I think there's a lot to,  
22 there's a lot to say in that. You gotta  
23 be very, gotta be very cautious on how  
24 you do it, but...

25 BLAGOJEVICH I'm not gonna do it.

26 GREENLEE You know be cautious on how, on how you  
27 get Harris to do it, but I gotta tell ya  
28 I believe it. I believe the sentiment.

29 BLAGOJEVICH Look at these battleground states  
30 according to Rasmussen, ready?  
31 Colorado, Obama 51/47. Florida, McCain  
32 50/49. Missouri, 49/49. North  
33 Carolina, McCain 50/49. Ohio, 49/49.  
34 Virginia, Obama 51/47.

1 GREENLEE They're all close, gotta make you feel  
2 good.

3 BLAGOJEVICH Yeah, but not when I keep talkin' like  
4 this, you know all the more reason Obama  
5 should win, take the Senate seat.

6 GREENLEE Yep.

7 BLAGOJEVICH I mean I just think we should put all  
8 this together then Harris or somebody  
9 goes and talks to him and say look,  
10 we've got decisions to make now. Okay?

11 GREENLEE Mm-hmm.

12 BLAGOJEVICH Movin' this stuff forward, you know,  
13 goes to Nils or whatever. Okay.  
14 Someone's gotta go to Zell, we wanna see  
15 him. This is, you know we, we dealt  
16 with all their bullshit all this time.  
17 It's fuckin' outrageous. And they do,  
18 you know, gratuitous thing like "extract  
19 a governor".

20 GREENLEE Mm-hmm.

21 BLAGOJEVICH Okay. They're, it's a political fuckin'  
22 operation, in there.

23 GREENLEE Yeah.

24 BLAGOJEVICH And we're goin' out of our way. What do  
25 you think?

26 GREENLEE I agree with that. I mean I think you  
27 gotta, I mean it's, Harris has gotta be  
28 very sensitive on how you do it but you  
29 gotta say look, we're ah...

30 BLAGOJEVICH What's, there's nothin' sensitive about  
31 how you do it. What, just straight  
32 forward. What, what's so sensitive  
33 about it?

34 GREENLEE No, I don't disagree with that. You  
35 just...



1       BLAGOJEVICH                   Straightforward.  We're goin' out, we're  
2                                       doin' this stuff for you.  We believe  
3                                       this is right for Illinois.  But this is  
4                                       big deal to the, to Zell financially.

5       GREENLEE                     Mm-hmm.

6       BLAGOJEVICH                   Okay, we've worked every step of the  
7                                       way.  We've gone around the Legislature  
8                                       and found a way for the very reason they  
9                                       want me impeached.

10      GREENLEE                     Yep.

11      BLAGOJEVICH                   Your fuckin' paper.  Okay.  Maybe we  
12                                      can't do this 'cause they'll, this will  
13                                      be the grounds to impeach me.

14                                     (PAUSE)

15      BLAGOJEVICH                   You know what I'm sayin'?  That's the  
16                                      point.

17      GREENLEE                     Yeah, no I agree with that.

18      BLAGOJEVICH                   And maybe we can't do this now.  Fire  
19                                      those fuckers.

20      GREENLEE                     I like the idea of you going in there  
21                                      and you saying, I'm not sure that we can  
22                                      do this anymore because we've been  
23                                      getting a ton of these editorials that  
24                                      say look we're going around the  
25                                      Legislature, we gotta stop, and this is  
26                                      something the Legislature hasn't  
27                                      approved.

28      BLAGOJEVICH                   Yeah.

29      GREENLEE                     We don't want to go around the  
30                                      Legislature anymore.

31      BLAGOJEVICH                   'Cause they'll impeach me.

32      GREENLEE                     You know we won't, we...

33      BLAGOJEVICH                   Your newspaper will drive it, they'll  
34                                      impeach me 'cause I'm doin' this around

1 the Legislature.

2 GREENLEE Yeah.

3 BLAGOJEVICH And then we'll have Harris go in and  
4 make that case. Not me.

5 GREENLEE Mm-hmm.

6 (PAUSE)

7 GREENLEE Yeah, I like that.

8 BLAGOJEVICH Alright get all those ah, put, collect  
9 all of 'em.

10 GREENLEE Okay, will do.

11 BLAGOJEVICH From the most recent and, you know, and  
12 highlight every one of those things,  
13 including that David Miller one, you  
14 know what I'm sayin'.

15 GREENLEE Mm-hmm. Yeah.

16 (PAUSE)

17 GREENLEE Yeah, I will do so.

18 BLAGOJEVICH Now I want Obama to win. Greenlee, the  
19 Senate seat, my friend.

20 GREENLEE I'll tell ya it's, it definitely gives,  
21 it gives you a lot of room to say look,  
22 I, I just don't have to deal with this  
23 anymore.

24 BLAGOJEVICH You know or you cut such a deal with  
25 Obama if it's perfect, you get what you  
26 really want or you know you take the  
27 Senate seat, you like fall back, fine  
28 I'll take the Senate seat myself.

29 GREENLEE Mm-hmm.

30 BLAGOJEVICH You know one of the good things you cut  
31 with Obama is you, you go in there  
32 intervene with those, that fucking

1 chairman of the party, get rid of him.

2 GREENLEE Mm-hmm.

3 BLAGOJEVICH And get him fuckin' ousted as speaker so  
4 we can get Democratic shit done. What  
5 about that?

6 GREENLEE Exactly.

7 BLAGOJEVICH Huh?

8 GREENLEE Exactly. Although he's not gonna wanna  
9 do that. He's not gonna wanna fight  
10 hard enough.

11 BLAGOJEVICH No, of course not.

12 GREENLEE But...you know you end up, at least then  
13 you end up pushing it, you end up saying  
14 look, you know, I thought it was worth  
15 it to you.

16 (PAUSE)

17 GREENLEE How do you like that? Okay, I'll pull  
18 those together.

19 BLAGOJEVICH Okay man.

20 GREENLEE Okay. Talk to ya.

21 BLAGOJEVICH Alright.

22 GREENLEE Bye.